

Auburn Quality Awards 2023

PROPHYLAXIS OVERTREATMENT, NUANCED OR VACUOUS?

A REVIEW OF POSTOPERATIVE NAUSEA AND VOMITING AT AUBURN HOSPITAL

Murari Ramesh, Mathew Economides, Charlotte Rollo, Jacob van Tienen, Kate Shi, Sing Nguyen, Josh Burman, Alpha Tung

AIM

To determine the incidence of postoperative nausea and vomiting (PONV) in patients undergoing elective general anaesthesia at Auburn hospital and assess appropriate use of guideline directed treatment for PONV prophylaxis.

ISSUE

Postoperative nausea and vomiting are common adverse events following surgery. Its association with significant patient dissatisfaction and increased healthcare costs has led to its focus in quality improvement. Despite guidelines demonstrating the importance and benefit of appropriate risk identification and prophylactic treatment; clinician uptake remains poor.

INTERVENTION

This audit examined Post Operative Nausea and Vomiting risk stratification and prophylaxis in 104 consecutive patients following elective general anaesthesia at Auburn hospital.

Patients were grouped by risk factors into low, moderate, and high-risk and prescribed prophylaxis compared to suggested PONV guidelines.

RESULTS

Nearly half (45%) of patients did not receive PONV prophylaxis consistent with suggested guidelines, the majority of these (59%) received more prophylaxis than suggested. Overall incidence of PONV was 10% regardless of level of prophylaxis received. Adherence to prophylaxis may be improved with patient specific prophylaxis regimes and regional techniques to limit postoperative opioid use. We recommend informative posters be applied in visible clinical areas and clinical education sessions for all perioperative staff."

